

# SYLLABUS

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**Code:** POLI 225

**Title:** Comparative Politics

**Institute:** Business and Social Science

**Department:** Political Science

**Course Description:** In this course students will be exposed to various theories of comparative politics, learn about comparative research methods, and examine the political, economic and governance systems of countries from around the world including: industrialized democracies, current and former communist regimes, and less developed nations. Countries to be analyzed include the United Kingdom, France, Germany, European Union, Russia, China, Mexico, India, Iran and South Africa.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Prerequisites or Corequisites:** None

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab/Studio Hours:** 0

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**Required Textbook/Materials:**

Instructor will inform students on Day 1 of class.

**Additional Time Requirements:**

For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize the comparative method and compare different political systems;
- Describe the nation-state system;
- Explain important political concepts such as democracy, socialism, communism, imperialism, colonialism, sovereignty, interdependence, and globalization;
- Compare and contrast different countries politically, economically, and socially;
- Investigate the diversity of global political life;
- Describe and evaluate the industrialized democracies such as the USA, UK, and France;
- Describe and evaluate communist and post-communist regimes such as China and Russia;
- Recognize and illustrate the political and economic problems of the Third and Fourth Worlds;
- Describe and evaluate the regimes of Third World countries such as India, South Africa, and Mexico.

**Grading Standard:**

0-64=F 65-69=D 70-76=C 77-79=C+ 80-82=B- 83-86=B 87-89=B+ 90-92=A- 93-100=A

Please see individual instructor addendums for additional grading standards and/or policies.

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## **Course Content:**

### UNIT 1: Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method

- Why comparison?
- Hypothesis construction
- Theory building
- Anecdotal evidence
- Empirical evidence
- Value-neutral science
- Case study method
- Time-series method
- Cross-cultural studies
- Rational Actor model
- Systems level analysis
- Theory confirming studies
- Theory infirming studies
- Endogenous variables
- Exogenous variables

### UNIT 2: The Industrialized Democracies

- Common traits and shared values
- Civil Society
- Human Rights
- Representative democracy
- Capitalism
- Trade
- Common standards of living
- Contrasting traits and values
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Marxism

### UNIT 3: Communist and Post Communist Regimes

- What is communism?
- Karl Marx
- Vladimir Lenin
- Friedrich Engels
- Josef Stalin
- Antonio Gramsci
- Command economy
- Central planning
- Five year plans
- One party rule
- Collapse of Soviet Union
- Rising China
- The secretive North Korea
- Cuba in a changing world

### UNIT 4: The Third and Fourth World

- Third World defined
- Fourth World defined
- Value/non-value of Third and Fourth World definitions

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- Common problems and challenges
- Poverty
- Debt
- Instability
- Conflict
- Lack of Civil Society
- Health care
- Education
- Environmental degradation
- Primary commodities
- Failed state

## UNIT 5: Development and Modernization

- Development defined
- Modernization defined
- What is good development?
- Global economics
- Economic nationalism
- Economic internationalism
- Dependency theory
- Globalization
- Import substitution
- Structural adjustment

### **Department Policies:**

- Attendance is mandatory and being on time is imperative.
- Lateness and/or early departure are not acceptable behaviors and will be penalized.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism are unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly, including severe penalties and disciplinary action.
- Electric devices are not permitted during class.
- Students are expected to be *attentive* and *courteous* to everyone in the class. Rudeness and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Rude behavior includes inappropriate talking, sleeping, reading unrelated material, texting, etc. If a student is engaging in rude conduct, they will be dismissed from class and further penalties will follow.
- Reading the textbook is required. Supplemental readings may be required.
- Paying close attention to relevant current events is necessary.
- Students are supposed to be fully engaged in all aspects of the course.

### **College Policies:**

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit [www.brookdalecc.edu/support](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/support).

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code

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- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

## **NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:**

See the Tutoring Center for information <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/>.

## **MENTAL HEALTH:**

- Mental Health Crisis Support: From a campus phone, dial 5555 or 732-224-2329 from an external line; off-hours calls will be forwarded to BCC police (2222 from a campus phone)
- Psychological Counseling Services: 732-224-2986 (to schedule an appointment during regular hours)

*The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.*